



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **PALMYRA MAN ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING INTERNET CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Harrisburg, Pa. — A former Hersheypark concession manager who now owns an area hobby shop made his initial appearance here in federal court this afternoon to face charges of distributing child pornography over the Internet.

Jeffrey Yingst, 39, has been ordered held without bond after being arrested at his Palmyra residence this morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on a federal warrant issued by the Eastern District of California. ICE agents were aided in this morning's operation by officers from the North Londonderry Township Police Department, representatives from the Lebanon County District Attorney's Office, and deputies with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

When ICE agents arrived at Yingst's home, they found the suspect engaged in an online child pornography chat room. Subsequently, officers searched Yingst's residence and seized his computer, where a preliminary examination turned up more than 50 child pornography movie files. During questioning, the suspect admitted creating an online chat room where participants fantasized about sexually abusing recently murdered young girls.

Yingst is expected to be transported to Fresno, California next week where the case is being prosecuted.

Today's arrest resulted from leads generated during an Internet child pornography investigation by ICE and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department into Mark McGarry, a former youth softball coach in northern California. The probe revealed that Yingst had exchanged child pornography files with McGarry, 44, who has been held without bond since his arrest in early January.

The investigation into McGarry began after the Fresno County Sheriff's Department received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Based on that information, ICE agents and the Sheriff's Department obtained a search warrant for McGarry's Fresno home. There, officers found hundreds of images of child pornography, including depictions of infants being sexually abused by adult men.

“Those who trade in the exploitation of children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them,” said Scott Brown, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Fresno, California. “ICE is working with its law enforcement partners across the country to combat this heinous behavior.”

Yingst is currently charged with one count of distribution of child pornography and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Yingst’s arrest is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to investigate, arrest and, in the case of foreign nationals, deport child sex predators. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,500 individuals nationwide.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov). ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*